Kainoa Todd

Period 2

12/5/2011

US History, Mr. Silva

*Q6. How did the increase in terrorism beginning in the 1980s challenge Americans both at home and abroad?*

Exam 2 (Take Home)

Terrorism struck hard in America in the early 1980s, when a Red Army extremist decided to explode a bomb in an US Air Force base in Ramstein, West Germany. This event started the great terrorism assault to America in the early 1980s. The Red Army assault was shortly followed by the Assassination of an Egyptian President on October 6, 1981. This happened when hidden soldiers of the Takfir Wal-Hajira sect attacked and killed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a troop review. Then shortly after that, the Murder of Missionaries happened on December 4, 1981 when three American nuns and one lay missionary were found murdered outside San Salvador, El Salvador. These missionaries were killed by “supposed members” of the National Guard, and these killers are currently in prison. These events all happened during the early 1980s and all took place from one supposed extremist going under American battle lines and acting as one of our soldiers. These terrorist won’t stop at until they get their hands on the innocent lives of the Americans. The terrorist acts in 1980 were some of the most key incidents thatinitially led to the start of some of the more major and well publicized terrorist attacks, such as 9/11. It is our duty as Americans to crack down on the terrorist order and put an end to all this nonsensical bloodshed. Their goal is to create fear and instability in the US. The entire premises of the Terrorists groups totally contradict America’s founding beliefs. Therefore, America is despised and called “the Great Satan”. America is for the most part, a melting pot of many different beliefs, cultures and creeds. The tolerance of another’s rights is a foundational belief. Terrorist are fueled by their belief in that the murder/death of anyone outside of their way is an honorable. Terrorists are extremely hostile towards Protestants and Catholicism alike. It’s almost like the perfect good vs. evil scenario or positive vs. negative. America and terrorism just don’t mix well together.

During the middle of the 1980s, terrorism struck again, but this time in 1983 when a Colombian Hostage-taking happened in April 8, 1983**.** A (U.S.) citizen was seized and held for ransom by a (FARC) member the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Also in April 18, 1983 the Bombing of U.S. Embassy in Beirut happed whensixty-three people, including the CIA's Middle East director, were killed and one hundred-twenty people were injured in a 400-pound suicide truck-bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility. The fact that Jihadist had the tenacity to talk to American forces and claim that they were the ones responsible for this violent act is unsettling. The Jihadist didn’t stop their acts of terror when they struck again in Beirut on October 23 in an assault called the Bombing of the Marine Barracks. In this act, there were simultaneous suicide truck-bombings that were made on American and French compounds in Beirut, Lebanon. A 12,000-pound bomb destroyed the U.S. compound killing two hundred-fifty two Americans while fifty-eight French troops were killed when a 400-pound device destroyed a French base. Once again the out-spoken Islamic Jihadists claimed responsibility for this mass murdering. Lastly, a U.S. Navy officer was shot on November 17 by a terrorist group in Athens, Greece, while his car was stopped at a traffic light.

The kidnapping of an Embassy Official took place in March 16, 1984. The Islamic Jihad kidnapped and later murdered Political Officer William Buckley in Beirut, Lebanon. Other U.S. citizens not connected to the U.S. government were seized over a succeeding two-year period. The next strike of the terrorist happened again in 1984 during a Restaurant Bombing in Spain on April 12, 1984. Eighteen U.S. servicemen were killed and eighty-three people were injured in a bomb attack on the restaurant near an U.S. Air Force Base in Torrejon, Spain. Then in 1985 violence only escalated with the Airport Attacks in Rome and Vienna on December 27.Four gunmen belonging to the Abu Nidal Organization attacked the El Al and Trans World Airlines ticket counters at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport with grenades and automatic rifles. Thirteen people were killed and seventy-five were wounded before Italian police and Israeli security guards killed three of the gunmen and captured the fourth. Three more Abu Nidal gunmen attacked the El Al ticket counter at Vienna's Schwechat Airport, killing three people and wounding more than thirty others. Austrian police killed one of the gunmen and captured the others.

In November 23, 1985 an Egyptian Airliner Hijacking took place while an Egyptian airplane bound from Athens to Malta and was carrying several U.S. citizens. The plane was later hijacked by the Abu Nidal Group. This hijacking was only the first of three hijackings. Previously, on October 7, 1985, the Achille Lauro Hijacking took place whenFour Palestinian Liberation Front terrorists seized the Italian cruise liner in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, taking more than 700 hostages. One U.S. passenger was murdered before the Egyptian government offered the terrorists safe haven in return for the hostages' freedom. The TWA Hijacking followed. The Trans-World Airlines flight was hijacked in route to Rome from Athens by two Lebanese Hizballah terrorists and forced to fly to Beirut. The eight crew members and 145 passengers were held for seventeen days, during which one American hostage, a U.S. Navy sailor, was murdered. After being flown twice to Algiers, the aircraft was returned to Beirut after Israel released 435 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners. After the three hijackings, the Attack on a Restaurant in El Salvador held on June 19, 1985 by Members of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) fired on a restaurant in the Zona Rosa district of San Salvador, killing four Marine Security Guards assigned to the U.S. Embassy and nine Salvadorean civilians. Earlier in this same year, the Kidnapping of U.S. Officials in Mexico occurred on February 7th. The men were under the orders of narcotrafficker Rafael Caro Quintero, Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena Salazar and his pilot were kidnapped, tortured and executed. The Aircraft Bombing in Greece, March 30, 1986 took a Palestinian splinter group detonated a bomb as TWA Flight 840 approached Athens airport, killing four U.S. citizens. The aircraft bombing was followed by the Berlin Discothque Bombing, April 5, 1986 Two U.S. soldiers were killed and sevent-two American servicemen were injured in a Libyan bomb attack in a nightclub in West Berlin, West Germany. In retaliation U.S. military jets bombed targets in and around Tripoli and Benghazi.

The increase in terrorism around the world in the 1980’s forever changed the assumed safety of Americans and others. Israel had long been familiar with terrorist attacks but other countries, including America, had few prior incidents on their soil. Since then airports and other important buildings adopted new safety procedures. The attack on the Twin Towers in New York City was the first time Americans faced terrorism on US soil. Until then, terrorism was dealt with in a defensive manner and now America is much more offensive and deliberate. The US has long been a target for terrorists but until 9-11 we thought of it of other county’s problems. Terrorists took more than lives on 9-11 because they made us second guess our safety and way of life. Since early history, men have fought to force others to follow their beliefs. Unfortunately, many wars and conflicts started because of extreme religious beliefs. Many lives were lost because of religious wars. Many acts of terrorism result from the belief that if they (terrorists) eliminate their perceived enemy, even at the loss of their own life, will grant them favor by their god in the afterlife. Men and women motivated by their sacred belief that they are doing “gods” will, will stop at nothing to honor their vows.